

>> MORGAN: Hello, my name is Pennie Morgan, and I am the director of Project Health, which is the Health Education Laddering Program at Central Community College in Nebraska. I'm going to share with you a program we put together for our English language learners to help pass the certified nursing assistant class. Imagine this, you are from another country and you can speak English fairly well. You had a medical background from that country that you came from. Maybe you were a doctor or a nurse, you know you needed to restart your education over here in the United States. You heard about this program called "Project Health." It's a health education laddering program. You learn that they will assist you in fulfilling your educational dreams to become a health-care professional in the United States.

The first class you take is a certified nursing assistant class. You go to class the first day and you are so excited to see so many people around you. They feel the same excitement that you do. The instructor begins her lecture, she begins using words that you don't recognize. You're thinking to yourself, "What are these words? What have I got myself into?" Then suddenly you begin to have this feeling in the stomach. Your hands starting sweating and you begin to feel like this. You think to yourself, I have three weeks of this class and I don't understand the first day, there is no way I can do this, so the outcome of the class is this.

Project Help realized that this was happening to many of our English language learners. Keep in mind, many did not have the medical background. We saw their excitement when they started, and we also saw their disappointment when they'd give up or fail. To assist them in becoming successful we began offering a pre-NA class. All of our students were taking the TABE reading assessment. Based upon these scores, we found that students who were scoring between a third and fifth grade reading level were having difficulty in the certified nursing assistant class.

Due to the short-term training program, the three-week training program, they were having a hard time because of the medical vocabulary that they needed to know in order to complete the program. In order for them to be successful in completing the CNA class they needed to be reading between a fifth and seven-grade reading level. If their reading level was at the fifth grade, we strongly encouraged them to take the pre-NA class. If they were at the third grade or below, we encouraged them to go to adult basic education. The curriculum in the CNA class is written at a seventh grade reading level.

Our five goals in creating the class, the first one was to increase medical terminology. We really want them to become familiar with the terminology. Very few nursing skills is taught in the class. One, because that's focused on nursing assistant in the nursing assistant class.

Our second goal is to increase their comfort level in a college class. We want their first experience to be a very comfortable experience. Ninety percent of their grade was based on attendance and participation. Ten percent was based on the final quiz.

The third goal was to increase their reading base level. We hoped to be able to increase the reading level by one grade level, in conjunction with adult basic education. If we could help increase their reading level by one, then they can get tutoring during the NA class if they

needed to.

The fourth goal of ours was to increase participant enrollment in the NA class. The class is a great segue into our nursing assistant class. As I mentioned before, these students could enroll in the class; however, they may not have been successful. We want them to enroll, but we also want them to complete.

Our fifth goal was to increase the participant knowledge of finding, applying, and gaining and keeping employment. During this class, we do touch on the job skills that are covered. Gaining their education was only a part of being successful. We want to make sure that we can help them with finding employment. How the class is facilitated, our class is currently held on three of our college campuses. It's three hours a week, one night a week, ten weeks of classes, and it is typically taught by a Project Help employee. The cost of the training is \$20 for the ten weeks, and this enables students to also enroll in adult basic education. It's a \$20 fee. We have found that this is a great bridge to the advanced reading class.

Now the successes that we have found, they have been varied. We have found that those people who currently and previously had dropped out of the NA classes, if they took this class, they were able to pass the NA class. They were able to pass that class. I just want to let you know that thanks to this pre-NA class it has enabled us to continue to reach our goal with Project Help, which is to help people reach their educational goals and training and affords the services that leads them to the careers and pathways of the health-care field.